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Joy To The World! The Lord Is Come! Let Earth Receive Her King! Let Heav'n And Nature Sing! Let Heav'n And Nature Sing!

Caesar Augustus, the Roman Emperor, decreed that a census should be taken... and because Joseph was a member of the royal line, he had to go to Bethlehem... He took with him Mary... and while they were there she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger... (Luke 2:1-7, The Living Bible)

The star appeared to them (the three astrologers) again, standing over Bethlehem. Their joy knew no bounds! Entering the house where the baby and Mary his mother were, they threw themselves down before him, worshipping. Then they opened their presents and gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:9-11, The Living Bible.)

That night some shepherds were in the field outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared among them... "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem!" (Luke 2:8-11, The Living Bible)

Eight days later, at the baby's circumcision ceremony, he was named Jesus... That day a man named Simeon... was there and took the child in his arms, praising God. "Lord," he said, "now I can die content! For I have seen him as you promised me I would. I have seen the Savior you have given to the world..." (Luke 2:21-28, The Living Bible)

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up and flee to Egypt with the baby and his mother," the angel said, "and stay there until I tell you to return, for King Herod is going to try to kill the child." (Matt. 2:13-14, The Living Bible) — RNS Photos, from paintings by the artists, Richard and Frances Hooks

The Baptist Record

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11.9 Million Members, Rise In Baptisms Projected In SBC

NASHVILLE (BP) — Statistical projections based on an early profile analysis indicate that membership in Southern Baptist Convention churches will be 11,870,619, Southern Baptist leaders were told here.

If the unofficial projections are correct, church membership would have increased by 240,739 over the 1970 total church membership.

Probable increases also were projected in number of baptisms, ongoing church music enrollment, ongoing Brotherhood enrollment and mission expenditures.

The secretary of the research services department for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here, Martin B. Bradley, urged some caution in the accuracy of the projections, saying "the churches involved in this estimate are not completely representative of all Southern Baptist churches. Some church size categories and state conventions are over-represented due in part to the influence of associational meetings."

Final figures on the statistical report of Southern Baptist growth patterns for 1971 will be available in February, 1972.

The estimate disclosed a possible increase in baptisms of 43,821 from the 1970 total. The increase revealed 412,684 total baptisms in 1971 compared to 368,863 baptisms in 1970.

Ken Chafin, director of the Division of Evangelism, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, attributed the increase in baptisms to two factors: (1) a fresh moving of the spirit of God in America creating openness to the gospel; and (2) a major thrust at the grass roots level in training laymen to witness.

Mission expenditures totaled \$160,107,021 in the 1971 projection, nearly

\$9.2 million more than the adjusted 1970 figure of \$150,916,223.

The 1970 total was adjusted to include local mission expenditures which were included for the first time in the 1971 total for mission expenditures.

Ongoing Brotherhood enrollment increased 7.39 per cent, according to the estimated projection.

The Brotherhood figure of 453,752 represented a 31,225 increase over the 1970 total of 422,527.

The increase in Brotherhood enrollment is believed to be largely a shift of boys six to nine years of age from "Sunbeams" to Brotherhood "Crusaders" as a result of the new grouping and grading plan. The "Sunbeam" program previously was sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union.

"We have received encouraging reports on growth, but we are waiting for the full report in order to see how much of our growth resulted from the addition of Crusaders," said Glendon

(Continued On Page 2)

10 Missionaries Named

FMB Discusses Dollar Value

RICHMOND (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board adjusted financial support for some of its overseas personnel affected by de facto devaluation of the dollar, and called for prayer for missionaries in besieged Dacca, East Pakistan.

In their last meeting of the year, board members also appointed 10 new missionaries, heard a report indicating that the third highest number of missionary appointments in board history was recorded in 1971, and bid their executive secretary and his wife best wishes as they prepared to leave on a lengthy trip to Asia and Africa.

The twin forces of inflation and dollar devaluation continue to erode missionary funds, the board's Overseas Division director, Winston Crawley, told the trustees.

With the result of actual devaluation yet to be felt, the "floating dollar" has caused losses to date which on an annual basis total \$500,000, Crawley reported.

"Over one-third of our fields have already reported losses running from 2 to 4.5 per cent," he said. He added that the loss in Japan had reached 10 percent.

Crawley brought a recommendation for adjustments for missionary support in 26 countries where dollar value has declined 2 per cent or more in recent months. The board, which supports missionaries in 76 countries, adopted the recommendation.

Inflation, running 4 to 5 per cent in the United States and even higher in some countries, compounds the dollar value loss, said Crawley.

He pointed out that, with the approximately one per cent expansion in the total missionary staff in the past year, the Foreign Mission Board's income must increase by at least \$2 million to provide the same purchasing power per missionary in the coming year. This is an estimated

increase of more than 6 per cent, he said.

The wage freeze in effect in October, when the board adopted its 1972 budget, prevent action at that time to increase missionary support, Crawley continued. However, the budget provided for increased emergency compensation on many mission fields, pending government rulings to clear the way under Phase II of the Wage and Price Control Plan.

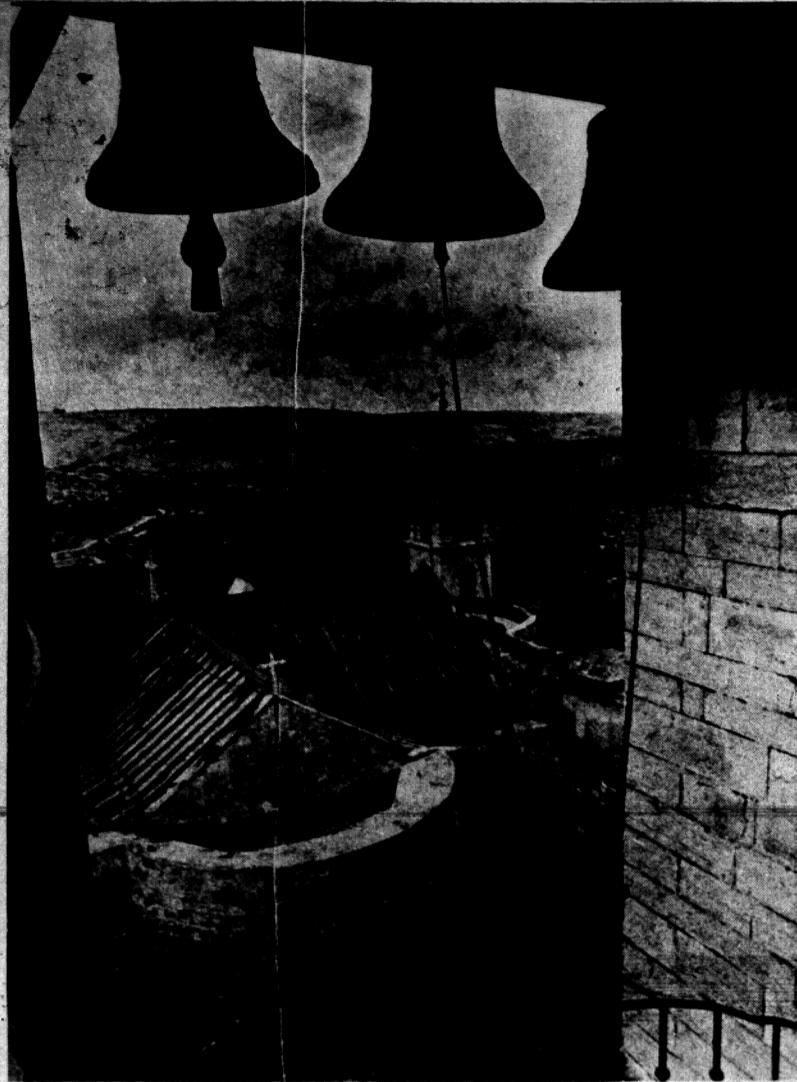
A contingency fund in the budget

covers an increase in compensation for missionaries on furlough in the states.

"What the board is able to do in the strengthening of missionary compensation depends primarily on additional resources provided by Southern Baptists," Crawley said. It is anticipated that the board will gradually upgrade the level of support provided, he added.

Southern Baptist missionaries in

(Continued On Page 2)

**Bells Of Bethlehem**

Christmas Bells overlook the Church of the Nativity and Shepherds' Field in Bethlehem, the place of Christ's birth.—RNS Photo by Elmo L. Romagosa

Don't Bypass Bethlehem

By Kenneth W. Sollitt

"Come, we must go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened," said the shepherds, as the New English Bible puts it. We, too, must go, "straight to Bethlehem" and see for ourselves. But some of us get off the Bethlehem road by letting two detours lead us completely astray.

The first detour is the oft-repeated heresy that Christmas is for children. Indeed, it is for children. It is for everyone. If we think that Christmas is only for children, we ourselves, like little children, have never seen beneath the wrappings and trappings of Christmas to its glory.

A second detour along the road to Bethlehem is the tendency to lose the spirit of Christmas in condemning the commercialization of Christmas.

The observance by many people of Christmas may be something less than Christian, downright pagan, in fact, but I am convinced that Christmas manages to make each of us just a little bit better. In it God has His best chance of reaching those who never celebrate another religious holiday and wouldn't celebrate this one either if it were not for some of the very things we Christians tend to deplore.

Don't let the signs that point the pagans to Bethlehem lead you into a detour around it. You do not need to let the outside of Christmas keep you from penetrating to its heart. Look up and down the main street of any town or city in America at Christmas time, and you will see thousands of dollars worth of trees and tree lights and other decorations put up by the city to attract business. You can let that bother you, or you can say, "Behold how the crass, materialistic business world, whether it means to or not, spreads the Christmas light to those who sit in darkness!"

Don't bypass Bethlehem! The spirit of Christmas is one with the spirit of Jesus, who, born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, still lives. And as the angels said, the joy of His coming is to "all people."—Christian Herald

HOME MISSION BOARD HONORS FITE, FORMER MISSIONARY TO CUBA

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board presented a resolution of appreciation to former Cuba missionaries David and Margaret Fite, after Fite had recounted his experiences of imprisonment for three years in Cuba.

Fite, now a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, and his wife served under the board as missionaries to Cuba for nine years.

In 1965 Fite was imprisoned on charges of espionage and illegal currency exchange by the Castro regime, along with his missionary father-in-law, Herbert Caillill. Fite was released in 1968 and returned to the United States in 1969.

"Now that I look back on it, I believe the reason our church in Havana didn't grow very much was that we were like cranes, stretching out our necks and picking out the people from different communities," Fite recalled. "But we need to realize the potential of the community on the human level and reach out in our own community."

Baptist Viewpoll**The Role Of The Church On Social And Political Issues**

By Ken Hayes

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers have overwhelmingly indicated in a recent poll that churches should express their views on day-to-day social and political questions.

The poll, taken by the Baptist Viewpoll organization reports from a survey of Protestant ministers that 76.3 per cent of the pastors and 70.8 per cent of the teachers on a representative national panel feel that churches should express their views on day-to-day social and political questions.

One fifth of the pastors and one fourth of the teachers polled feel that the churches should "keep out" of political and social matters.

The findings for the current Baptist Viewpoll were based on 90 per cent response from the Baptist Viewpoll panel, composed of approximately 300 pastors and 300 Sunday School teachers selected to represent a cross section of persons holding those leadership positions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

versatism, the poll disclosed. Religiously "conservative" panel members were more likely to oppose the churches' involvement in social and political issues than were the less conservative panel members.

The Gallup Poll organization reports from a survey of Protestant ministers that 74 per cent of their sample felt that churches should express their views on social and political questions, while 21 per cent opposed such involvement.

Both polls (Gallup and Baptist Viewpoll) were conducted in February-March of this year.

The findings for the current Baptist Viewpoll were based on 90 per cent response from the Baptist Viewpoll panel, composed of approximately 300 pastors and 300 Sunday School teachers selected to represent a cross section of persons holding those leadership positions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

11.9 Million Members; Baptisms Rise

(Continued From Page 1)
the Brotherhood Commission.

Ongoing church music enrollment continued upward with an estimated total enrollment of 1,063,280, an increase of 69,705. The increase was 6.81 per cent over the 1970 adjusted total.

Since the 1971 figure for church music enrollment excludes handbell ringers, vocal ensembles and instrumental ensembles enrollment which were part of the 1970 total, the percent change was calculated on an adjusted 1970 total.

Ongoing Woman's Missionary Union enrollment estimates project a decrease of 4.89 per cent. The loss of 58,671 has been attributed to the change resulting from the new grouping and grading plan.

The 1970 figure was 1,199,813, as compared to the projected 1971 figure of 1,141,142.

"WMU leaders were aware that the reports on the first year under the new grouping and grading plan would reflect the loss of six-to-nine-year-old boys and girls," said Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary, Woman's Missionary Union.

"Good reports from state conventions give us encouragement as we continue our task. The increase in mission expenditures would probably be a more accurate key to our work," she added.

Decreases were reported for ongoing Training Union and Sunday School enrollments.

Sunday School enrollment was projected as 7,132,973 in 1971, a decrease of 137,410 from the adjusted 1970 total.

The 1971 figure for Sunday School enrollment excludes fellowship Bible class enrollment, which was included in the 1970 totals.

Ongoing Training Union enrollment decreased 116,981, according to be projected estimate.

Ongoing Training Union enrollment was 2,111,236 in 1971, according to the projection, compared to a total of 2,228,217 in 1970.

The 1970 and 1971 figures for Training Union exclude those for new member orientation, church leader training and member training projects.

Totals for these three phases will be developed along with other final statistics.

"While the enrollment projections show a downward trend in Sunday

School and Training Union, I see numerous indications that this is temporary," said Allen B. Comish, director, Church Services and Materials Division, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Reports from the convention indicate that in the past six months many

churches have shown marked growth. This will continue and will spread to other churches," Comish commented.

Total receipts were projected to increase 9.37 per cent, up \$85.3 million over the 1970 total figure.

Projected estimate of total receipts was \$977,844,809 during 1971, as com-

pared with a total of \$892,255,918 in 1970.

The preliminary statistical projections were released here during sessions of state program secretaries meetings at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.



"And It Came To Pass In Those Days..."

"AND IT CAME TO PASS" is the Scripture quote used beside an antique copy of the Holy Bible in the William Carey College Green Science Hall display window. The special Christmas emphasis is admired by Carey co-ed Darlene McDonald.

FMB Discusses Dollar Value

(Continued From Page 1)

to remain in Dacca before other foreigners were evacuated Dec. 12, according to John D. Hughey, secretary of Europe and the Middle East.

Hughey has been in recent contact with the missionaries and a U. S. State Department spokesman.

"I admire the missionaries for the courage and devotion which have kept

them at their posts," Hughey told the board members. "However, leaving would have meant no lack of courage and devotion, and it might have been prudent to go."

"Now we can only pray that God will protect them and use them for blessing to others at this time of great distress," Hughey said.

Eight couples are assigned to Pak-

istan, but not all are in the country. An additional couple assigned to East Pakistan has taken a temporary assignment in Taiwan because they could not obtain re-entry visas.

When full-scale war broke out between Indian and West Pakistani forces in East Pakistan recently, Southern Baptist missionaries then in Dacca were the James McKinneys, the Thomas Thurmans, the Troy Benetts, Howard Teel and Dr. John Freeman.

Dr. Freeman, a physician assigned to Thailand, had gone to Dacca to offer his assistance during the crisis.

Only the Teels have re-entry visas. If the other missionaries leave East Pakistan, they probably will not be able to get back in, Hughey said.

During an evening service following the regular board meeting, four couples were appointed as career missionaries.

They are Mr. and Mrs. Douglas A. Bryant of Moreland, Ga., appointed to Ghana; Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn C. Kirkpatrick of Ringgold, La., East Africa; Mr. and Mrs. James D. Watson of Round Rock, Tex.; Mexico;

of Louisville, to Japan.

Employed as missionary associates for a four-year term were Mr. and Mrs. Ray M. Douglas of Fresno, Calif. They are to work in the Dominican Republic.

There are indications that the current upswing in the number of new missionaries being appointed to the board will continue into next year, according to Jesse C. Fletcher, Mission Support Division Director.

Fletcher said that the number of volunteers and candidates in contact with the missionary personnel department is up significantly this year. Twice as many autobiographical life histories have been submitted, he said.

The department's regional representatives also report a resurgence of interest in overseas service among

(Continued On Page 3)

Winning Converts For Pennies

"I have never seen an organization that is able to stretch the dollar so far. They even outdo the Salvation Army!"

The speaker was Paul Harvey, the well-known news commentator who is heard and seen on 500 radio and 126 television stations and read in some 300 newspapers. The occasion was a special meeting of leading citizens in El Paso, Texas, on November 30. The subject was Evangelism International, a world-wide organization with offices in Atlanta, Georgia, and a

Dr. John E. Haggai, president and founder of Evangelism International, was also on hand to explain his unique ministry.

His program provides training for key Christian leaders from third world countries where western missionaries can no longer go. In neutral Singapore, they are taught the most modern concepts of communications—the "how" of evangelization. These nationals—who are the Billy Grahams and the Norman Vincent Peales of their own countries—return to their native lands to train other leaders

people for Jesus Christ.

"We train the 'Generals,'" Haggai explained, "who indoctrinate the 'Troops'."

Paul Harvey, who has become an enthusiastic supporter of Dr. Haggai and his unique work, pointed out that

four training sessions a year in Singapore. The most recent five-week seminar, held in October, trained 21 leaders from eight countries. Although the ultimate results may never be known, the possibilities are staggering. The eight countries represented have a total population of nearly 900 million people. This is one fourth of the world's total.

With doors rapidly closing to traditional missions and Christianity's rate of gain steadily declining, the path chosen by Evangelism International—training nationals to reach nationals—seems to be the only way to go in the 70's, the commentator said.

Dr. Haggai, who himself is the product of missions—his Syrian father was converted to Christianity in Damascus before coming to the United States and becoming an ordained minister—told his audience in El Paso that there has never been a more desperate need for religion.

"I've never heard of anyone hooked on Christ who throws Molotov cocktails and depends on drugs," said Haggai, whose crusades have taken him to cities across the country and to key areas around the world. "In this organization, people from fight-

Christ. The Japanese sit with the Koreans, Singaporeans with Indonesians, the Jews with the Arabs."

"Essentially, what Dr. Haggai is doing," Harvey added, "is Vietnameseizing religion."

Evangelism International conducts

only for one short day, ill will is set aside, and the effect upon our lives is miraculous. What an astonishing contrast Christmas creates in the upsurge of love and kindness in men's hearts!... Nothing during the year is so impressively convincing as the vision Christmas brings of what this world would be if love became the daily practice of human beings.

What a world we will have when at last men heed His wise advice to "love one another!"—Norman Vincent Peale

Hinge of History

This is Christmas Day, the anniversary of the world's greatest event. To one day all the early world looked forward: to the same day the later world looks back. That day holds time together.—Alexander Smith

With This Ring . . .

By V. Carney Hargrove
President, Baptist World Alliance

A certain young minister had had little time to instruct the couple he was to marry. When he asked for the ring it was handed to him in a box with a fastened catch. It took at least half a minute before, holding his book in one hand and the box in the other, he finally pried the latter open. Unfortunately, the box was upside down so the ring fell out and rolled away from him.

I remember a time in my own experience when the groom, understandably a bit nervous, dropped the ring as he was about to put it on his bride's finger. But the day was saved, because we had anticipated this possibility and prepared for it.

The ring ceremony is the chief bit of mechanics during the marriage itself. Four people are involved, five when there are two rings. There are possibilities for error. Anticipating these I give instructions. The best man is asked to place the ring which he carries on the first finger of his right hand, it will not go beyond the first joint. He closes this finger and presses the thumb against it. When I am ready for the ring he puts it into my open hand. The other ring, carried by the maid of honor, is on her left thumb. Since, by the time we need this ring, she has two bouquets of flowers, I easily take it and go through the process again.

According to this plan there is no need for searching in pockets nor for a scramble to pick up from the floor the elusive band. When the participants say "With this ring" . . . they are sure to have it where they want it.

As the officiating minister, I hold the ring momentarily in my hand while I pray, "Bless this ring, O Lord." Then as I hand it to the groom I hold my Bible or wedding book under the hands of the bridal couple. The act gives a bit of additional dignity and solemnity to the occasion as it symbolizes the exchange being undergirded by the word of God. And in the case of the nervous bridegroom, the ring he dropped fell only to the Bible where he could pick it up again!



Christmas Stamps For 1971

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Two colorful stamps for the Christmas season are being made available this year by the U.S. Postal Service. One stamp, (left) designed by Jamie Wyeth, son and grandson of famed artists Andrew Wyeth and Newell Convers Wyeth, features a "partridge in a pear tree" and contains the first line of the old English Christmas ballad. The stamp at right is a detail from Italian painter Giorgione's "Adoration of the Shepherds," painted about 1510.—RNS PHOTO

Some Uses Of Christmas

By Russell M. McIntire

It is evident that many are "using" Christmas for various reasons, mostly for material gain. Its symbols are used to sell every conceivable thing both good and bad. Christmas does have some very important and valuable "uses" however, and should be used accordingly to serve noble ends. Let me quickly suggest six ennobling uses of this holy season.

Let me suggest, first, that it be used as a season of healthful relaxation and recreation. This may seem to be a strange suggestion to some, but many of our spiritual problems stem from the rushing frantic pace of everyday living which allows little time for real relaxation and a proper change of pace. Doesn't it do your heart good to see the usually busy father on Christmas day tossing the new football with his sons?

Secondly, it should be used for a renewing of the ties of home. If the coming of Christ into the lowly home of Joseph and Mary suggests anything at all it stresses the importance, in God's eyes, of a good home. Families should be closer together at Christmas time than at any other time.

My third suggestion is that it be used to patch-up some strained relationships. It's really hard to dislike any one at Christmas. We send a cheery greeting even to those we feel have treated us unkindly. You can't have any real hatred in your heart when you sing "Peace on earth good will to men."

Again, it should be a season of remembering the less fortunate. The Baby in the manger calls attention to the fact that not all of life's necessities are available to all, so out of our abundance we share.

It is also a season for a return to sentimentality. We grow so burdened and sophisticated we scarcely realize we have emotions. Everything about Christmas has a soul-stirring quality about it. Nothing stirs the heart like the sight of a new born babe. Add to this the fact that this Babe is the world's redeemer and the coldest heart is moved.

And, of course, the Christmas season is a time of drawing near to God through the birth of His Son. Isn't this what God had in mind all of the time? Isn't this perhaps the reason He, the Father, drew near to us in the Son so that we might be drawn closer to one another as His children? This, it seems to me is the real use of Christmas.

HMB language missions extends from Setegani, a Choco Indian village in Panama, to Kiana, an Eskimo village above the Arctic Circle in Alaska.

Love And Be Loved! It's Christmas!

Collegians Invite Villagers To A Party

Want to teach? Want to learn? Want to listen? Want to talk? Want to love? Want to be loved?

Almost everyone wants to do all these things, but seldom have the opportunity.

Especially at one time.

About thirty Mississippi College students have found a way to fulfill all these wishes, however.

All at one time, too.

They travel to the Baptist Children's Village nestled in the rolling terrain between Jackson and Clinton every Monday and Thursday evening to spend time with their assigned child, to get away from the humdrum of college life.

It's not just a social visit, though.

They go to work — to assist the children having trouble in school or who have a hard time studying by themselves.

It's really a tutoring visit.

The college student — as a tutor — may call out questions for an exam, listen to a child read, try to remember the plot of "Macbeth," or just check some mathematics homework.

But don't let all the work fool you!

"Tutoring" also includes other things.

It could be yelling for the Village team at their basketball game, sharing freshly baked sugar cookies, reading a child a book, and just hugging a little girl and boy.

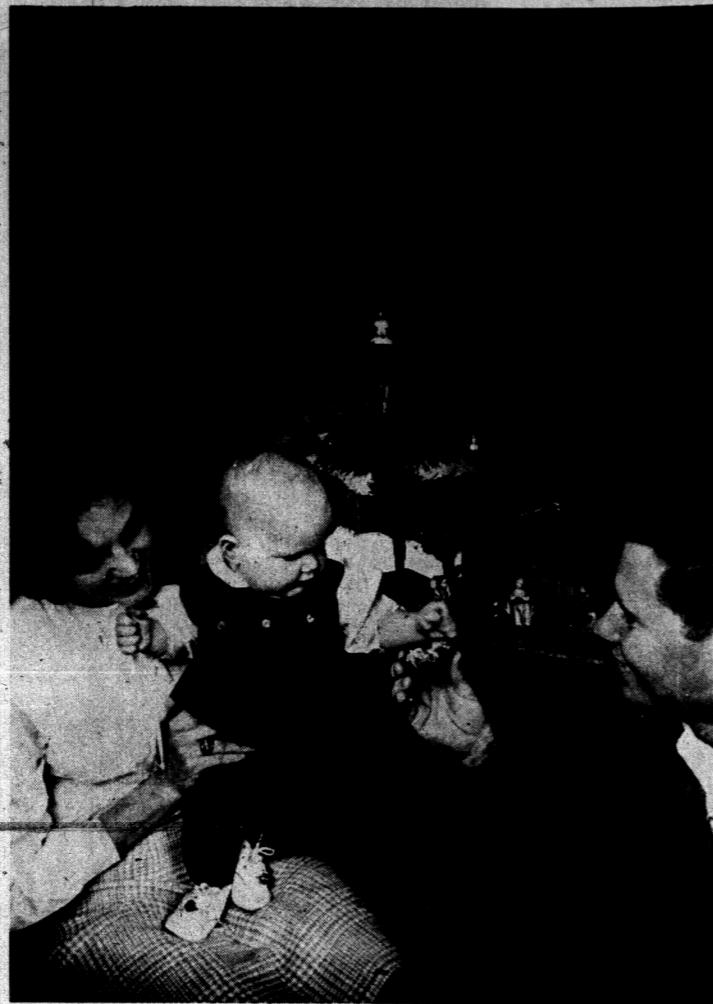
Most of all, though, "tutoring" is listening and talking.

Conversation topics range from boyfriends and girlfriends, to teachers and school, to Christ and church. Through it all the students and children acquire a new friend and gain

Sunday School Board Plans Senior Adult Workshop

NASHVILLE — A senior adult workshop will be held at the Church Program Training Center of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board Feb. 7-11, 1971.

The workshop will offer an opportunity for pastors, church staff employees, superintendent of associational missions and volunteer program leaders to engage in a week-long study of the potential involvement of senior adults in church programming.



Her First Christmas

Baby learns of Jesus on her first Christmas. Luke 2:12 "And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (Home Board Photo)

SALVATION ARMY HONORS PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK (RNS) — The 1971 Citation of Merit awarded by the Salvation Army of New York was awarded here to President and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon.

A throng of more than 3,500 persons jammed a hotel ballroom to watch Tricia Nixon Cox accept the awards for her parents.

President and Mrs. Nixon were honored for "their strong sense of family unity and a love of God that is shown in the desire to serve Him by serving others."

21 BAPTIST EVANGELISTS DIE IN GIANT TIDAL WAVE IN INDIA

Twenty-one traveling Baptist evangelists perished with 30,000 residents of Chandpara, India, when tidal waves swept the city October 28-30. Chandpara is in the state of Orissa, in the northeast section of the country, near East Pakistan.

B. John V. Rao, secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of India, said that three teams of seven evangelists were working in Chandpara when the storm hit. Though the government of that district does not permit street preaching, permission had been secured for distribution of evangelistic tracts.

Other foreigners who remained there include 17 persons connected with the U. S. Consulate, 15 to 20 American journalists, and 34 U.N. personnel, most of whom are non-Americans.

Hughay said he learned that the missionaries were not off the evacuation flight from U. S. State Department spokesman Scott Butcher.

Butcher told Hughay that he does not believe there will be another evacuation attempt because it is believed that all who wished to leave the country were able to do so.

congregations affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

There are more than 950 Baptist missionaries appointed to serve among our nation's language-culture persons and an additional 150 language pastors receive financial assistance, though not as appointed missionaries.

Thursday, December 22, 1971

RAPID CITY

First, Houston Sets

New Baptism Record

HOUSTON (BP) — The First Baptist Church of Houston baptized 1,600 persons last year, apparently a new all-time record for a Southern Baptist church during a single year (October-September).

Pastor John Bisagno, who came to the downtown church here in 1970 from First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., said that 950 of the baptisms resulted through a SPIRENO (Spiritual Revolution Now) campaign conducted by the church last spring.

The three-month-long campaign was led by evangelist Richard Hogue, who spoke in Houston, high schools and junior high schools, inviting young people to evangelistic meetings at the church. Total professions of faith during the revival exceeded 4,000, Bisagno said.

"Shepherds Rejoice," a Christmas musical, will be presented by a mass choir under the direction of John Wilson, of Chicago, who composed the score.

Choirs from several churches in the state will sing, to be followed by a message by Mr. Hogue, who will be accompanied by the "3-N-1" trio, also of the "Spireno" team, composed of Dave Smith, Mary Mauldin and Bill Landers.

Following a break, the evening program will be concluded by a presentation by "Truth" a group of dedicated young singers from Mobile, Ala.

Following the regular program will come the "Afia Hours," which will include the Coffee House, recreation and a Billy Graham motion picture, "The Lost Generation," at First Baptist Church.

Tuesday morning's session will begin at the church at 9:00 with Mr. Rodgers presiding.

Welcome will be extended by Dr. Larry Rohrman, host pastor.

Features will include youth testimonies, presentation of third and fourth place festival winners, "Laugh Time," a group of simultaneous con-

ferences and a concluding message by Mr. Hogue.

Tuesday afternoon's session will begin at 2:00 with Kermit S. King, director of the State Baptist Church Training Department in the church.

Features will include presentation of second place festival winner, conferences, testimonies, "Sing 'n' Celebrate" and "Laugh Time."

The closing session on Tuesday night in the auditorium will begin at 7:00 with Billy Jack Green, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Columbia, presiding.

The opening music will be by "Truth" singers, followed by "Sing 'n' Celebrate" and the presentation of the first place winner of the Youth Choir Festival.

The regular Convention program will be closed with a message by Mr. Hogue and the "3-N-1" Trio.

The "Afia Hours" will include the Coffee House, recreation and another showing of Billy Graham film, "The Lost Generation."

The conferences will be led by outstanding adult leaders from over the state, with Bible study to be conducted in the chapel by Dr. Phillips McCarty, assistant professor of Bible at Mississippi College.

Convention instrumentalists will be Brenda Alday, Tommolen; Jerry Aultman, Columbia; Darwin Brooks, Belden; John Bush, Columbia; Billy Causey, Jackson; Bob Clark, Handsboro; Jim Hannaford, Moss Point; Russell Kyzer, Natchez; Paul Lee, Hattiesburg; John Moore, Pelahatchie; Charles Powell, Jackson; Ross Price, Union; Melita Ann Shoemaker, Waynesboro.

Registration fee for the convention will be \$2.00 per person.

This Convention will be sponsored jointly by the Church Training Department, Kermit S. King, director, and the Church Music Department, Dan C. Hall, director, both of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson.

BSSB Produces Deacon Family Ministry Plan

NASHVILLE — The Deacon Family Ministry Plan, a program helping families publicize, has been produced by the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Offering training for deacons in family ministry, listing resources, defining responsibilities and suggesting projects, the plan gives essential help for deacons to serve in their churches.

Supporting forms and record sheets for deacon family ministry are also provided.

The Deacon Family Ministry Plan Church Literature Order Form.

Southern Baptist churches include Italian, Russian, Polish, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Czechoslovakian, Filipino, Ukrainian, French, Portuguese, and Hungarian congregations in addition to Spanish and Indian congregations.

Foreign Bd. Discusses Dollar Value

(Continued from Page 2)

East Pakistan had apparently chosen seminary students, Fletcher said.

This year's total of 226 appointees, while below 1969's record 261, is a sharp increase over the 182 appointees in 1970, Fletcher pointed out.

He added that the net gain in the missionary force in 1971 will be about 25, compared to 1970's gain of 11, the lowest in many years. Most missions merely held their own this year, he continued, due to the large number

of countries to which missionaries were appointed.

The need for career missionaries continues to be critical, Fletcher said.

In light of this, the number of short-term missionary associates being employed has been purposefully reduced since 1969.

The number of openings for associates has stabilized at 25 to 30 per year, he said.

Compared with other appointment years, this year's total of 226 is the

third largest in board history, Fletcher noted, but in terms of career missionaries appointed it is about the 10th largest.

Details of a far-ranging trip to Asia and Africa were outlined by Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary. He and Mrs. Cauthen planned to leave the day after the board meeting, Dec. 15, for Hong Kong where he will speak at the installation of the new president of Hong Kong Baptist College, Daniel C. W. Tse.



BLOWING BUBBLES — The bubbles didn't last too long, but it was fun to blow them. Later he ate Christmas goodies and sang carols and heard the reading of the Christmas story.



I KNOW IT FITS! Bewilderment strikes. Just HOW does this go together??



AM I NEXT? She wonders if Santa will remember her next as gifts are distributed to the children.



ANXIOUS MOMENT — Faces of children from Baptist Children's Village begin to light up as they arrive at MC for the annual Christmas party



CUDDLE CLOSE — Happiness is holding Snoopy . . .



CUDDLE CLOSE — Happiness is holding Snoopy . . .



BARBIE DOLL! And a kitchenware set! (MC Photos by Norman Gough)

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

EDITORIAL

Jesus Christ, Superstar

When Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth, one of the manifestations the Father sent to reveal His coming was a special star in the sky...the star which guided the wise men to Him.

The hymn writer spoke of this:

"There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a King."

The star which pointed out the manger in Bethlehem was real, and no star in all of God's universe has had a more important mission.

The word "star," however, sometimes is used figuratively, and as we think of the coming of the Son of God to earth, amid the darkness that then enshrouded man, we can say that there is a star on the horizon of history, the brightest star that ever has shone upon this earth. Truly it was the "Superstar."

I almost hesitate to use this latter word with reference to our Lord. . .it has been so grievously misused in recent months. Yet, I want to use it with a proper meaning, for when we think of Christmas and of Christ, we are thinking of the "Superstar."

Consider the wondrous words of the Scripture in Philippians 2:5-11 (Living Bible Translation):

"Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by the Lord Jesus Christ, who, though he was God, did not cling to his rights as God, but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on the cross. Yet it was because of this that God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The World Book Dictionary defines the word "superstar" as "an excep-

tional success star, as in sports, motion pictures, etc." A second definition is added, "an exceptionally large star or other heavenly body."

The main misuse of the word "Superstar" as it relates to Jesus Christ has been in the Broadway musical about which so much has been said in recent months. We have neither seen the production, nor read the script, but our understanding is, from the reports of those who have seen and heard it, that it is blasphemous, irreverent and degrading. Any thing which presents Jesus Christ as nothing more than a man, who neither knows his purpose or, whether He is going, and which lets His life end in tragic defeat, must be so classified. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Using the word "Superstar" in its proper connotations, we must say that Jesus Christ was the "Superstar". It is not "a" but "the" for none other ever has lived, or ever will live who can be compared to Him.

"A name above every name."

Why?

Why is it that we cannot compare others with Him?

Why is He the true, the one and only "Superstar"?

Why should Christmas be the most glorious season of the whole year?

The answer is easy to find!

Look at the Bible revelation!

In it we find that the first Christmas was the beginning of the earthly manifestation of God's redemptive purpose for man.

We say "earthly manifestation" for it began back in eternity.

There the Father determined to provide redemption for mankind.

His only begotten Son, who shared all of the glory and honor and power of the Father, as one of the triune Godhead, was chosen to come to earth in human flesh to provide salvation for sinners.

Miracle of miracles was the incarnation. God in human flesh!

Holy Spirit conceived and virgin born!

Now He lay in a manger with a tender mother's eye watching over him.

He had laid aside the kingly glory of the eternities, and taken the simple glory of the babe in an humble place.

No wonder the angel choruses hailed His coming.

No wonder amazed shepherds looked upon him with wonder and awe.

No wonder a special star was placed in the sky to guide wise men to His person.

No wonder wise men bowed before Him and presented to Him their gifts of love and devotion.

No wonder that history centers on this Bethlehem manger.

It is the center of all history past!

It is the focal point of all history present!

It presages all history future!

God himself had come to earth, to walk among men, to reveal God to man, and finally to die for man and then to conquer death for evermore.

The most amazing life that ever was lived, began, humanly speaking, in the Bethlehem cave.

No other was born as He was born; no other has lived as He lived; no other spoke as He spoke; no other worked wondrous works as did He; no other died as He died; no other conquered death as He conquered the grave; no other ascended back to glory as they saw Him do.

And He is coming again! To complete God's purposes!

And it all began on that first Christmas night so long ago.

That is why Christmas should be such a meaningful time for us all.

Even in the world darkness of 1971, when war, and revolution, and moral decay, and religious decline, haunts mankind, we still can lift up our heads.

There's a star, a Superstar on the horizon.

Christmas means Christ!

We have made it mean many other things.

Crowds, and buying and gifts and packages and trees, and lights, and tinsel, and music, and a thousand other things, seem to crowd in to press Christmas' true meaning aside. We would not do away with any of them which express love and joy.

But we must remember...Christmas is Christ!

He is Superstar!

With the angels we should exalt His name;

With the shepherds we should worship Him;

With the wise men we should bring gifts to him;

With Mary we should love him;

With heaven we should point to Him.

At Christmas, 1971, let His "name be above every name!"



Time of Gladness



A Woman's World Reaches Far Beyond the Ironing Board

Wilda Fancher



'MasterControl' Commentary

Consult the station guide for broadcast time in your area.

Southern Baptists' Radio-Television Commission

God's Free Gift

By W. Morris Ford

Even the most gullible person is becoming aware that the word "free" is suspect. We live in an advertising age. It is also an age of gimmicks. The telephone rings. When you answer a pleasant voice says, "You have been chosen to receive many free gifts. All you have to do is . . ." and then she goes into an animated sales talk. The word "free" is the come-on.

We must admit that some of the merchandise is indeed free of cost, but its purpose is to stimulate sales and build up business. The "occupant" receives in his mailbox hair dressing, tooth paste, deodorant, a razor blade, or any necessary product. It is the real thing, though usually small in quantity, and it is free! Still it is a sales gimmick.

Another common practice is to put "free gifts" in boxes of merchandise. This runs all the way from prizes in Cracker Jacks and cereals to towels, china or glasses in boxes of detergents or soaps. We all know these are not free, and yet there is something in the gimmick that attracts the customer. Perhaps we really like to be fooled.

There is one very bad thing about a gimmick world: it even makes the gospel suspect. The word "grace" is an important one in the Bible. It means unearned, unexpected. Jesus in his conversation with the woman at the well (John 4:14) told her that if she had asked of him he would have given her living water. She did not understand the meaning of living water but she caught the words "ask" and "give" immediately. Her ignorance was soon dispelled. She left her water pots and with the joy of satisfied heart-thirst she hurried to the village to spread the news about Jesus' gift.

Nothing can be earned in just one way. Never can it be merited, earned or purchased. There are no gimmicks. It is free! This is not a drawing or a lottery. It is not guessing the right answer or pulling the right grab-bag string. Salvation is God's free gift. The New Testament puts it clearly: "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

Someone asks, "Isn't there a gimmick there in the word "faith"?" Absolutely not! While faith is necessary, it is nothing more than a hand outstretched to receive with complete confidence that the gift is real and the giver sincere.

In the giving of any gift it is the giver who pays the cost. How true it is of salvation. One has but to lift his eyes to the cross to see how dearly our salvation was bought.

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EDUCATION what's happening

States Help Private Colleges

At least 13 state legislatures are making this year that will provide financial aid to private colleges or their students.

Several other states either have broadened existing private-college aid programs or have increased their appropriations for such programs. In addition, bills authorizing similar programs are pending in several of the legislatures that are still in session.

The new enactments bring to 35 the number of states which give aid, at least indirectly, to private colleges and universities. Although the programs vary widely from state to state, most of them involve grants or scholarships to students to enable them to attend private institutions.

Direct-Aid Plans

A growing number of states, however, appear to be interested in more direct forms of aid. One plan, adopted this year in Minnesota and Oregon, provides for the state to "contract" with private colleges for the education of state residents.

Illinois, Maryland, and Washington, on the other hand, adopted programs of direct grants to private institutions. The Maryland plan is geared to the number of degrees awarded, while the other two are based on the number of state residents enrolled in private colleges.

Some Constitutions Forbid

Some states are prohibited by state laws or constitutions from providing direct funds to private institutions, especially those that are church-related.

In other states, the question of aid to private colleges has become a controversial topic. A heated battle was fought in Missouri this year, after a governor's commission recommended an assistance program that would aid students who attended either public or private institutions.

Forms of Indirect Aid

In addition to scholarship programs, other forms of indirect state aid have been developed. A total of 12 states now permit private institutions to use the state's borrowing authority for bonds or loans to construct buildings. In South Carolina, private institutions can buy equipment and supplies through the state's purchasing department.

At the rate scientific breakthroughs are coming, we may yet live to see the invention of quiet.

Skating was a delightful part of my childhood. In our town the most skillful feat of all on skates (to which all of us aspired and toward which we spent many Saturday mornings) was to be able to skate down hill on the big broad block-long walk in front of our school and make an L-turn onto another hill and coast nearly another block down hill without slowing down or losing balance on the turn. When I drive by there now, I know those really aren't hills, but to us little kids they took on hill proportions. I'm so glad I learned to skate.

There have been times all through my life when I have had the feeling that I was learning to skate at four o'clock on a dark morning with only a small flashlight—stumbling, skinning myself, tearfully trying again.

But in these experiences my faith in Christ has helped me to allow the Holy Spirit to be a resting place for my hands as I balance myself, and to shine light onto my path, reflecting on treasures shinier and richer than those two big dimes.

Learning to walk with God has been a lot like learning to skate—a progression from unsteady, trembling, roll-walk steps to the long hill of complete abandon when unquestioned faith is required. This walking with God is a delightful part of my adulthood. I am so glad I learned.—Address: Box 9151, Jackson, Miss., 39206.

It Happened Last Christmas...

By June P. Carter

Rosa Rolon looked like any pretty 14-year-old hurrying to the store for her mother, except she had only one leg.

Still, she moved swiftly, for she had a crutch made of two broomsticks and 10 years' experience in using it.

Several times, the crutch had broken, but each time her father, Polo, who had made it, was able to wire, patch or nail it back together again.

There was no hint in the warm South American sunshine that this errand would be the beginning of a long journey, no hint that at the journey's end there would be a new leg for Rosa. She had no notion that her life was about to touch lives on two continents.

Suddenly, as she hobbled along, the much nailed wood of the crutch split, and Rosa fell sprawling. Retrieving the broken crutch, she struggled to regain her footing, hoping desperately that no one had seen her fall. She had learned through bitter experience the pain of humiliation.

A few nights later, James H. Stiles, Jr., missionary pastor of the little Baptist church in Cucuta, Colombia, sat down at his ham radio set and fiddled with the dials. He was thinking of Rosa. Sunday morning, while she and her family were in church, he had noticed her crutch had broken again, causing another fall.

Stiles switched on the set and spoke into the microphone. "CQ, CQ, CQ, CQ... This is HK2MU in Cucuta, Colombia, standing by."

Contact with Durham

In Durham, N. C., Tim Heflin, a member of the radio club at Duke University Medical Center, heard the unfamiliar voice in Colombia announcing its availability. "HK2MU, this is WB4BLK in Durham, N. C.," he responded.

Neither man had any notion that this, their initial conversation, would be of such consequence.

Heflin, who was involved in Project MED-AID (Medical Assistance for Isolated Doctors), at Duke, chatted with the missionary about how the project worked. He suggested that Stiles call on the group for help if he ever needed it.

Wondering if it would be possible to get a metal crutch for Rosa, Stiles told him about the girl.

"How about an artificial leg?" Heflin responded. "There's a foundation in California that might donate the limb, if you could get her to the States."

Many Obstacles

Excitement gripped the missionary, but both men were realistic. Transportation was only one of the obstacles they could foresee. The Baptist mission in Colombia had no money for such a project and Rosa's family was exceedingly poor.

Polo Rolon, once a bus driver, had been paralyzed in his legs for seven years. To earn a living, he and his wife, Ana, operated a small pastry business from their home. With the help of the children, she made cream-filled solteritas—"little old maid's"—

which were sold in the streets. Their monthly income was roughly \$50, and besides their own three children they had taken in two others.

It was the family's poverty which, indirectly, had cost Rosa her leg. She was only four when a swelling in the limb, unattended, developed into gangrene. The doctor whom Senora Rolon had finally sought in desperation shook his head and pronounced that he would have to amputate.

On learning of Rosa's need, the Direct Relief Foundation in Santa Barbara agreed to furnish an artificial leg, but because of the distance Heflin began making contacts at Duke. Stiles went to work on transportation.

Major Obstacles Overcome

The two major hurdles tumbled miraculously. Within days Heflin had found doctors and technical personnel at Duke willing to donate their time and skills to provide a leg for the girl in faraway Cucuta.

Meanwhile, Stiles talked with his friend Tullio Quentes of Avianca Airlines. Stiles had once accommodated Avianca by translating for some English-speaking tourists. Later, he had voluntarily taught a crash course in English to the airline's office staff.

Still, he knew his chances were slim when he requested round trip passage for Rosa from Cucuta to Miami. The airline, by policy, did not become involved in personal problems. Yet, in a few days, there it was—requested granted!

Success-inspired, Stiles and Heflin hammered away at remaining details. Missionary colleagues agreed to meet Rosa in Bogota and accommodate her for the night.

There was a change of planes in Miami. A ham radio friend of Stiles, M. R. "Andy" Anderson, director of religious education for University Baptist Church in Coral Gables, Fla., offered help.

Anderson found two Spanish-speaking pastors who agreed to be on call for Rosa's arrival. Next he called the president of the Coral Gables Lions Club, and the club readily agreed to provide Rosa's round trip fare between Miami and Durham.

Two hurdles remained: hospitalization and sponsorship. Doctors at Duke had no way of knowing the condition of the stump of Rosa's leg. She could be fitted as an outpatient, but if the stump required surgery first—a very real possibility—then she would have to be hospitalized. Heflin learned that room and board could not be furnished to any patient there without charges.

Durham Pastor Contacted

Nor could Rosa get a tourist visa without a letter of sponsorship from a person in the United States. Heflin advised Stiles to get in touch with Malbert Smith, Jr., pastor of Grey Stone Baptist Church in Durham, N. C.

Smith received Stiles' request on a Monday morning. Within the hour a notarized letter was off to Colombia. It he agreed to take full financial responsibility for Rosa while she was in the States. "I did it on faith," he declared. "I knew the church would back me up."

On meeting Rosa, Malbert Smith's immediate impression was that she

needed some dental work, and he set about making arrangements. A dentist from his congregation volunteered, but so extensive was the decay that an oral surgeon at Duke assumed the task. Discovering that many of her teeth were only shells, he pulled 10 of them.

Music filled Rosa with joy. The Rigsbees bought her some Spanish records and she delighted in playing them. As the Christmas season approached, she sang the familiar carols and to American ears the unfamiliar language of Rosa's homeland was suddenly comprehensible.

Buys First Pant suit

Mrs. Rigsbee still reminisces over the day Rosa bought her first pant suit. A principal desire of this girl who had been "different" for as long as she could remember, was to be able to pass unnoticed in a crowd. The pylon, in all its sturdiness, did not look like a real leg. And then Rosa tried on the pantsuit. When she caught a glimpse of herself, resplendent with new hip-to-floor solidarity, her face was transformed.

On January 13, Rosa received her permanent prosthesis. As closely as possible the skillful Duke team had matched the shape and coloring of her own leg. The physical therapists had completed Rosa's arduous training program and helped her realize as nearly as they could the goal of a normal gait with the least possible body motion and expenditure of energy.

Now it was almost time for Rosa to return home. She had her final dental appointment and she was to fly to Miami on Feb. 13. On the Wednesday before she left, the Grey Stone congregation staged a farewell-birthday party. She would be 15 on Feb. 28.

Rosa posed for pictures standing straight and tall; she flashed her new teeth, laughed—and cried. She didn't yet know her whole neighborhood would turn out to welcome her back to Cucuta, nor that 18 young people from her own church would give her a party.

Cries for Three Days

She cried for three days. On Saturday, Leonard Rigsbee, looking almost as forlorn as Rosa, walked his little "daughter" to her plane. Because it was raining she used her cane, but just three months earlier she had crossed the pavement in a wheelchair.

Loren Turnage, the missionary in whose home Rosa had stayed, met her in Bogota. She got off the plane smiling.

A photographer and reporter from *El Tiempo*, Bogota's leading newspaper, were there. Rosa posed for pictures and talked to the reporter "like a machine," as Turnage later remarked. She talked about the United States, her "family" there, the dental work, and the kindness people had shown her.

Three months earlier Turnage had noted her fear and withdrawal. When he had asked a question, she had simply answered "si" or "no." He had expected the physical change, but he was unprepared for Rosa's remarkable personality change.

"Hi! How are You?"

A few hours after her interview in Bogota, she bounced off the plane in Cucuta, astonishing Stiles with her first words, "Hi! How are you?" in perfect English.

Stiles says now that even the neighborhood has changed. While Rosa's

trip was in the planning stages, some of her neighbors had termed it a "gringo trick" pronouncing that the promises would never be kept. After she left they predicted she would not be allowed to return. Now that Rosa is back and walking, their attitude is beginning to change.

Grey Stone Church has changed too.

Malbert Smith says his congregation has an awareness of missions and of people that it could never have developed without Rosa. "She has a deep sense of gratitude," he adds. "We were richly repaid—10,000 times over."

Rosa's formal education has been brief, but now she wants to finish school and become a secretary. A private tutor coached her so she could re-enter school at the beginning of the semester. Two members of Grey Stone church paid for the tutor, and they wish to underwrite whatever expense is involved in getting her through high school.

Rosa says someday she would like to study in the United States, and it may be possible; the stone church in Durham has started an education fund for her.

Small wonder that Rosa Rolon tells her friends that everyone in the United States loves her.

Scrapbook

Christmas Receivers

By Peter Halle

IT WASN'T THE MEN'S FAULT, but I am afraid that those gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh have got us into a little trouble. They have made us think that the chief message of Christmas is one of giving. Really it is one of receiving!

Giving is comparatively easy. To give makes you feel that you are someone, and everybody wants to feel that he is somebody. When you give, you are exercising initiative, and exercising the initiative satisfies a craving deep within us. If you give, you put somebody else in your debt. That, too, makes you feel good. If you give, you increase your control over somebody else.

Receiving's different. Receiving means submission. It means letting go the initiative and accepting other people's tastes and ideas and opinions. It means putting yourself in debt to the other man. This is why receiving is so hard. It's why so few people, particularly adults, receive Jesus Christ. There are numbers of people trying to give to Him—over half the population of the United States is trying to give Him something by joining a church or putting money in the offering plate—but how many are receiving Him?

The Christmas story tells us of two wonderful receivers. First, there was Mary. It's true that when the angel first came to her she was "greatly perturbed." Doubtless she wondered, as we would, whether she was having hallucinations or was going out of her mind. She also must have wondered what Joseph's reaction would be when she told him the news. She was going to need something infinitely more than tenderness and understanding from her carpenter fiance. She was going to need faith of an unprecedented kind—faith to believe that what she was telling him was true—and that God was doing something He had never done in the history of the world. She was also going to need his willingness to accept the fact that the angel had come to her instead of to him—and that's not easy for a man. In order to receive what God was wanting to give her, Mary had to face up to Joseph and all that he might or might not think and say and do. She also had to face up to her family and all her neighbors—and I don't believe that neighbors were different than from what they are now. That Mary in the light of all this received God's initiative in the way she did is a miracle to me. I honour Mary, not because she was born without original sin—I don't believe she was—but because she teaches me perhaps as nobody else in the whole Christmas story does how to receive the giving of God.

Joseph was a wonderful example of receiving, too. It seems to me that a child of which he was not the father, whose identity he could take only on faith, was the last gift he would have chosen at this particular juncture in his life. Apparently he gladly, fully received what God was giving without even having any inner struggles as Mary did. We read in our hymn "How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!" but if there was silence in Joseph's heart as he received it, it was only because he was the kind of receiver that you and I can only marvel at.

Let us learn, then, from Mary and Joseph and all the others whom we haven't mentioned. As we learn from them, let us remember that to relegate this truth solely to the area of the direct gifts of God and not to apply it to the gifts that come to us from Him through our fellowmen—fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, friends, and neighbors—is to tamper dangerously with God's truth because the Bible teaches us the frightening reality that the way we treat others is in fact the way we treat God.—Sunday School Times

The people of the Mississippi Territory received a very special Christmas present on December 10, 1817. An act of Congress admitted Mississippi into the Union as a state.

Now that the time has come wherein Our Savior Christ was born, The larder's full of beef and pork, The granary's full of corn. As God hath plenty to thee sent, Take comfort of thy labors, And let it never thee repeat To feed thy needy neighbors.

—Poor Robin's Almanack (1700)

Star Of Bethlehem

Let Christmas be a bright and happy day; but let its brightness come from the radiance of the star of Bethlehem, and its happiness be found in Christ.—H. G. Den

The wise men went where the baby was born, And they saw that His name was Jesus. He came from the glory, He came from the glorious kingdom.

Oh, yes, believer. He came from the glory, He came from the glorious kingdom. He came down.

—West Indies Christmas Carol

A Beginning

Men and women everywhere sigh on December 26 and say they're glad Christmas is all over for another year. But it isn't over. "Unto you is born... a Savior. It's just beginning! And it will go on forever."—Eugenia Price

Christmas Joy

Christ proved his love for everyone; and He expects the same from us. (See I John 1:3, 4; Luke 2:14; Proverbs 22:1).—Avis Herrod Brown

O Christmas tree, O Christmas Tree How lovely are thy branches (From an old German Folksong) Martin Luther, credited with introducing the custom of lighted candles on the Christmas tree, is shown with his family and his friend and co-reformer, Philip Melanchthon, at Luther's home in Wittenberg.—RNS PHOTO



needed some dental work, and he set about making arrangements. A dentist from his congregation volunteered, but so extensive was the decay that an oral surgeon at Duke assumed the task. Discovering that many of her teeth were only shells, he pulled 10 of them.

Music filled Rosa with joy. The Rigsbees bought her some Spanish records and she delighted in playing them. As the Christmas season approached, she sang the familiar carols and to American ears the unfamiliar language of Rosa's homeland was suddenly comprehensible.

Thursday, December 23, 1971

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EXTENDING A LEFT FOOT for the first time in 10 years, top photo, Rosa practices using the pylon, a temporary limb custom-made for her in Duke University's brace shop. Bottom photo, at the end of her lonely journey from Cucuta, Colombia, to Durham, N.C., Rosa Rolon's eyes were red-rimmed, but she managed a faint smile for Eastern Air Lines stewardess Lana Holmes. —(BP) Photos by Toby Druin and Bob Harper

The Village Bells

The singing waits, a merry throng, At early morn with simple skill, Yet imitate the angel's song, And chant their Christmas ditty still; And, amid the storm that dies and swells, By fits, in hummers softly steals The music of the village bells, Ringing round their merry bells. —John Clare in Shepherd's Calendar, 1827

Names In The News

First Church, Batesville, during the Foreign Mission Week of Prayer, heard guest speakers Rev. and Mrs. Curtis Askew, missionaries to Japan, and Rev. Donald Phlegar, missionary on furlough from Thailand. On December 5, Dr. J. W. Carney, who for several years was medical missionary serving in Pakistan, was guest speaker. At the evening service Dr. Carney and his family dressed in Pakistani costumes and presented a special program. Dr. Johnny C. Spencer is the pastor.

New to the 197th Infantry Brigade, Fort Benning, Ga., Chaplain (Maj.) William Davis Harbour from Quitman, Miss. Chaplain Harbour was assigned to the Brigade on Nov. 20 after returning from a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Mrs. Mary Ann Napier is now serving as kindergarten director, Carriage Hills Church, Southaven, having been called from the position of secretary at First Church, Smyrna, Tennessee. Mrs. Napier is the widow of Rev. Raymond H. Napier, Jr., who died suddenly, July 8, 1970. Mr. Napier was pastor of Stones River Church in Smyrna at the time of his death. He had served as music youth director at First Church, Booneville, Miss. and had pastored churches in Orinda and Nashville, Tenn. He was a native of Olive Branch, and a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Mrs. Napier attended Mississippi College and is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. She is a native of Jackson, Miss. Her children are: Carol, 12, David, 8, and Beth, 2½. They may be addressed at 1660 Chesterfield Cove, Southaven, Mississippi. The pastor of Carriage Hills Church is Rev. J. B. Miller.

A series of adult assembly programs for Sunday School have been written by Mrs. William H. Ross. The thirteen programs are published in the ADULT LEADERSHIP MAGAZINE of the Southern Baptist Convention, in the December, 1971, and January and February, 1972, issues. Mrs. Ross is the wife of the pastor of Mountain View Church, Huntsville, Ala. She is a native of Laurel, Miss., the former Jean Irvin.

Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs will begin a three-month series of sermons examining the basic tenets of the Christian faith on "The

Baptist Hour" in January. In his January 2 message, he will discuss "The Book Above All Books," the Bible, stressing its divine authorship and its relevance to modern man. His next three January sermons will be studies of God

William J. Reynolds, secretary, church music department, Baptist Sunday School Board, has been cited by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers as a recipient of one of the 1971-72 music awards.

Dr. Ronald Goulding, London

representative of the Baptist World Alliance, has written to Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, making the following statement concerning Rev. Arthur Blissett's ministry in England: "I am sure by now you will have received reports of Mr. Blissett's visit to this country, but I have spoken to one of our Baptist ministers here in London and he has given me the following information. He says that he made a tremendous impression on nation-wide television and also a very good impression on the ordinary people because of his charm. He has been received enthusiastically at public gatherings and was able to address about 80,000 people at a public rally in Hyde Park following the National Festival of Light held here in London."

Mrs. Hattie Leatherwood on October 23 was presented her 20-year perfect attendance pin by the Sunday school superintendent, E. M. Wegman, at Calvary Church, Corinth. Mrs. Leatherwood says, "I give God the credit for my being able to have perfect attendance through these years."

Clarke Float Takes First Prize



With SBA President, Ronnie Walker, at the wheel of the big Clarke float, "Christmas Around the World" prepares to join the Newton City Christmas Parade.

Kenny Pitts Memorial Youth Building To Be Dedicated

The beautiful new Kenny Pitts Memorial Youth Building of Handsboro Church, 1421 Pass Road, Gulfport, will be dedicated during special ceremonies, Sunday, Jan. 2, at 3 p. m.

Dr. Elwyn Wilkinson (former pastor of the church) will deliver a message of challenge to the youth and Rev. Perrin Cook of Atlanta, Georgia (also a former pastor) will present

1st, Indianola

Calls Pastor

Rev. Dan Morton has resigned First Church, Amory to accept the call of First, Indianola.

March, 1958, and have served there for almost fourteen years. During this time, the church has built and paid for a \$300,000 plant including a beautiful sanctuary and a two-story education wing.

The church is now in the finishing stages of another building program for an Activities Building.

In 1959 the church adopted and promoted the Forward Program of Finance. The budget has been increased from the 1958 goal of \$22,000 to the 1972 figure of approximately \$120,000. In 1970, the total receipts, including a building fund drive, were over \$147,000. The church, during this time, has steadily increased its mission offerings. In 1958, the gifts through the Cooperative Program were \$6,000 and the goal for 1972 is \$22,500.

In 1962, a Mission Committee was appointed and spearheaded the forming of a mission church in the Meadowood subdivision. This church now is one of the larger congregations in the city of Amory.

First Church has also moved into a staff program which has made possible an effective work with the youth of the church.

Rev. and Mrs. Morton have two sons, Kenny, who is doing graduate work toward his Ph. D. at the University of Texas, and Cleve, a senior at Mississippi College. Mrs. Morton is the former Freda Cowan, of Decatur, Alabama, a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

the message of dedication. Dr. Wesley Ellis, current pastor, will bring the scripture and prayer and he and Mrs. Ellis will render a vocal duet.

Spearheading the fund raising and labor for this much-needed facility are Mr. and Mrs. Elton Pitts of 4907 Courthouse Road, Gulfport. A fund had been started several years ago but was rather at a standstill. When young Kenny Pitts, at the age of 19, was tragically killed in an automobile wreck on January 3rd of this year, his mother requested that friends donate to the Youth Building Fund rather than send flowers. Mrs. Pitts is the former Blanche Brewer of Crystal Springs. The young people of the church met and agreed to bring a motion to the church that the building be named in memory of Kenny.

The 4000 square foot building was begun in May. On a tour of the building it is difficult to believe that so much has been accomplished mainly by donations of time, labor and material. It is estimated that the building will be valued at approximately \$65,000, however, it has been built by actual cash outlay of approximately \$22,000. There have been only three weeks since January 3 that there have not been any cash donations and during those weeks there were donations of materials.

All friends are invited to attend the dedication and open house.

Joe Waltz, Pennsylvania Baptist Leader, Dies

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)—Joseph M. Waltz, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, died Dec. 13 of an apparent heart attack while on a hunting trip in Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

Waltz and his son had gone hunting and had separated. Another hunter found the Baptist leader's body and notified his son.

Waltz, 46, became executive secretary of the newest state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention last year. He was the first person to hold the position.

For Colds take 666

REVIVAL RESULTS

Magnolia Street Church, Laurel, weekend revival; Dec. 3-5; Rev. Tom D. Sumrall, pastor-evangelist; Clint and Jarvis Nichols, musicians; Calvary Church Sanctuary Choir, Passaic, with Buddy Mathis presenting the musical drama, "THE KING IS COMING." Nine professions of faith; 19 rededications, three by letter..

Myrick Church (Jones): youth, revival; theme, "Sharing Your Faith"; one addition by letter; several rededications; BSU revival team from University of Southern Mississippi; Mark Jordan of Meridian, Wayne Malone of Picayune, Patsy Howell of Hattiesburg, and Jeri Manning of Jackson; Rev. George Hammond, pastor; Betty Speed, publicity chairman.

New Hope Almost Reaches \$1000 Goal

On First Sunday

Sunday, December 12, was the first day of the Lottie Moon emphasis at the New Hope Church, Foxworth; \$842.00 was given and \$75.00 was pledged, to total \$917 or \$83.00 short of the goal of \$1,000.

An 8x5' world map is mounted, decorated with 48 strategically placed lights emphasizing the work of Southern Baptist. A light is lighted when \$25 is given. Sunday morning 32 lights were lighted and four were lighted in the evening service.

The pastor, Rev. C. Lonnie Earnest says, "Beyond a doubt we shall surpass this goal honoring Christ during this, His birthday season."

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Baptist Hour" in January. In his January 2 message, he will discuss "The Book Above All Books," the Bible, stressing its divine authorship and its relevance to modern man. His next three January sermons will be studies of God

William J. Reynolds, secretary,

church music department, Baptist Sunday School Board, has been cited by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers as a recipient of one of the 1971-72 music awards.

Dr. Ronald Goulding, London

representative of the Baptist

World Alliance, has written to

Owen Cooper of Yazoo City,

making the following statement

concerning Rev. Arthur Blissett's ministry in England: "I

am sure by now you will have

received reports of Mr. Blissett's visit to this country, but I

have spoken to one of our Baptist

ministers here in London and he

and he has given me the follow-

ing information. He says that he

made a tremendous impression

on nation-wide television and al-

so a very good impression on

the ordinary people because of

his charm. He has been received

enthusiastically at public gather-

ings and was able to address

about 80,000 people at a public

rally in Hyde Park following the

National Festival of Light held

here in London."

Mrs. Hattie Leatherwood on

October 23 was presented her

20-year perfect attendance pin

by the Sunday school superinten-

dent, E. M. Wegman, at Cal-

vary Church, Corinth. Mrs.

Leatherwood says, "I give God

the credit for my being able to

have perfect attendance through

these years."

I Like Christmas

By Harold E. O'Chester

I LIKE CHRISTMAS because I like Christmas carols. They carry the message of His coming into the world. I can sing much, but I do love to sing at Christmas. The singing of little children at this time of the year thrills my heart, and the presentation of God's Word in musical cantatas help carry my burdens away.

I LIKE CHRISTMAS because I like the beautiful Christmas cards I receive every year. Yes, I am aware that some cards do not honor Him. Some even have a meaningless X instead of His name. Some are even sold with vulgar messages, and some ignore Him altogether. But, there ARE millions of beautiful blessed cards that truly honor Him with Scriptural messages at this time of the year.

I LIKE CHRISTMAS because I like Christmas trees. Yes, I know the history involving the evergreen tree with all its pagan customs. You see, our Christmas tree reminds us of Calvary's tree. The evergreen is symbolic of the everlasting life He gives us. By the lights we are reminded that He is the light of the world. The silver tinsel reminds us of the redemption we have and the red ornaments of the blood shed for us. Whatever history records about Christmas trees we are forever reminded of His death on a tree for us.

I LIKE CHRISTMAS because I like Christmas gifts. No, I don't think the gifts of alcohol

and tobacco and other gifts just as despicable, are honoring to Him, but there are gifts

we can give that remind us of His precious gift for us. Some swap gifts, but that doesn't

bear with it the true spirit of Christmas, for love has no part in it. It is a joy to give

Him a gift at Christmas through the Little Moon offering for Foreign Missions. It is a joy

to give in His name gifts to those who are dear to our hearts. Our finances may limit our

giving, but they can never limit the love that prompts the gifts. Also, many of the gifts I

have received at Christmas cost little, but those that come from hearts of love I cherish

as if they cost millions.

I LIKE CHRISTMAS because most of all it tells me of His Incarnation. That is what

it is all about. He Came! Praise God, He Came! "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." I Cor. 5:21.

I like Christmas because it reminds me of His coming for us the first time and brings to

my remembrance the fact that He who came once, is coming again! Praise His dear Name!

Yes, I LIKE CHRISTMAS!

A Good Conscience

A good conscience is a continual

Christmas—Benjamin Franklin

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W. L. Howse III Named To Mental Health Post

NASHVILLE (BP) — The director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, W. L. Howse III, has been named here as director of the alcohol and drug abuse program for the Mental Health Department of the State of Tennessee.

Howse, 35, resigned effective Jan.

1 from the Christian Life Commission

position after four years on the staff.

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Jesus Overcomes Temptation

By Clinton J. Allen
Luke 3:15-22; 4:1-12

Jesus began his ministry when he was about thirty years of age. Our lesson is given to the study of Jesus' baptism and temptation, which marked the completion of his preparation for his divine mission and the beginning of his role as the Messiah and Savior. In both baptism and temptation, there was identification with humanity and full commitment to the will of God. The way was prepared for the beginning of Jesus' ministry by the preaching of John the Baptist. At the height of John's ministry and before he was put into prison by Herod, Jesus presented himself to John and was baptized by him. The temptation experienced followed. We can see in both events a clear witness to his divine-human nature and his redemptive mission.

The Lesson Explained

JESUS' BAPTISM
Verses 3:21-22
Luke records the simple fact: Je-

sus was baptized. Why? He had no sins to confess. His baptism, however, had the utmost significance. He thereby identified himself with the ministry of John the Baptist as the forerunner and John's witness about Jesus. Further, he identified himself with all men: the very purpose of his earthly mission was to save sinners. Again, Jesus symbolized the means whereby he would fulfill his redemptive mission, his sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. Luke alone refers to the fact that Jesus was praying, following his baptism, when the Holy Spirit came upon him. Obviously, his baptism was experience of the most meaningful dedication. Luke stresses the visual evidence of the descent of the Spirit, "in a bodily shape like a dove," to serve a divine purpose of verification. Then came the approval of the Father's voice from heaven — to emphasize that Jesus was the Messiah, God's Anointed, and also the Suffering Servant.

JESUS' VICTORY OVER SATAN
Verses 4:1-12

The exact nature of Jesus' temptation experience is not easily identified. Likely, this crisis experience of temptation focused more on his choos-

ing the approach he would make in his ministry or the methods he would use in the fulfillment of his mission. First, there was the temptation to turn a stone into bread to satisfy hunger. The temptation perhaps pointed toward an appeal to Jesus to accomplish his mission by giving bread, by concern for human need and suffering on the physical level, to give first concern to relief of want and misery. Satan failed with this appeal. Second, there was the temptation to accept the kingdom of the world and their authority and glory as a gift from Satan. This would suggest an appeal to compromise with evil, the acceptance of Satan's methods and strategies, adopting the ways of the world to establish the kingdom of God. But such was unthinkable! Jesus would be resisted. Satan's schemes are to be rejected. Satan's offer has in it the poison of death. The one course for the Christian is to refuse any and every promise or prospect that turns one from the faithful worship of God, and to refuse every self-centered satisfaction that mars his trust in the Father.

GESTION THAT JESUS CAPTURE A FOLLOWING BY SENSATIONAL STunts, BY PLAYING TO THE CROWD, BY SCHEMES PLEASENG TO THE SUPERFICIALITY AND SELFISHNESS OF MEN, BY PRESUMPTUOUS DEPENDENCE ON THE CARE OF GOD. BUT JESUS WOULD NOT TEMPT THE LORD GOD. HE WOULD WIN FOLLOWERS BY THE POWER OF TRUTH AND HOLINESS, BY THE POWER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE, BY THE POWER OF COMPASSIONATE MINISTRY, BY THE POWER OF REDEMPTIVE LOVE OFFERING FORGIVENESS AND DISCIPLESHIP BY THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

Jesus Our Example

Baptism is a declaration of Christian experience at the deepest level, a death to sin and a resurrection to new life through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a confession of Jesus Christ as Lord. Baptism, however, is not the full measure of Christian duty and Christian discipleship. Rather, it marks the beginning of commitment to Christian discipleship. And living the Christian life involves a continuing struggle with Satan. Satan is to be resisted. Satan's schemes are to be rejected. Satan's offer has in it the poison of death. The one course for the Christian is to refuse any and every promise or prospect that turns one from the faithful worship of God, and to refuse every self-centered satisfaction that mars his trust in the Father.

Thursday, December 23, 1971

BAPTIST RECORDS



Gulf Coast Dedicates Baptist Center

On December 12, Gulf Coast Association formally dedicated its new Baptist Center Building. The building contains office space for the director of missions and secretary, and also additional space for an associational education director, associational library, committee meeting room, classrooms, kitchenette, and work room area.

Currently the classrooms are being used to house the Seminary Extension Department as well as association wide training clinics, and other associational meetings.

Dr. Elwyn N. Wilkinson, interim pastor of Bel Aire Church, Gulfport, served as moderator during the construction period. Dr. Wesley Ellis, pastor of Handsboro Church, served as chairman of the Building Committee. Those working with him were Frank Mehroff, Bel Aire Church, William Garrett, First, Biloxi, and George Hollifield, Bay Vista, Biloxi. Fred Wagner, Bay St. Louis was the architect.

The building was built at a cost of \$70,000. Rev. J. W. Brister is the director of missions for the Gulf Coast Association.



The Lesson Explained

JESUS' BAPTISM
Verses 3:21-22
Luke records the simple fact: Je-



Gift Wrapping With A Message

DALLAS — Mrs. Doris Witmer, a Dallas housewife, displays the "Gospel message" gift wrapping paper she has had designed with an assist from an artist, Art Farstad. Mrs. Witmer, wife of Dallas Theological Seminary professor John Witmer, got fed up with her fruitless search for Christmas wrapping paper with a "Scriptural" theme and decided to do something about it. She now finds herself at the helm of a business enterprise, which has three "Gospel message" Christmas gift wraps and one all-occasion Christian wrap on the market. Many of the Christian book stores in the Dallas area are now carrying the wraps, and orders have been coming in from around the country. — RNS PHOTO

13th Check Means Double Blessing To Retirees Of SBC

DALLAS (BP) — This Christmas, the number 13 will mean double blessing to 6,363 people who depend on the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board for their retirement income.

The Annuity Board is sending them a 13th check, an amount equal to twice their monthly benefit, according to R. Alton Reed, board president. Amount disbursed in extra payments totals \$915,137.

The extra sum is paid over and above the 12 regular monthly checks, thus earning the title six years ago

as "the 13th check." The five previous annual bonus checks were paid in February rather than just before Christmas, and equaled only one month's benefit.

Reed explained that a change in the fiscal year caused the switch in dates for sending out the "13th check." When the fiscal year and calendar year coincided, the extra dividend to annuitants went out in February. Now that the board is changing with other Southern Baptist agencies to a fiscal year ending September 30, the checks from this year on will be dated in December.

The board does not guarantee a "13th check," made possible year by year by good experience with investments, Reed said. The first extra check went out in February, 1967, after the Annuity Board had eliminated the liability against its retirement plans.

SBC Agency Honors H. Barnette

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission presented its distinguished service award

to Henlee H. Barnette, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, during a dinner in his honor at the commission's annual meeting here.

Barnette was presented a plaque citing him for outstanding service to the denomination as "an inspiring teacher, a gifted and competent theologian, a compassionate gadfly, a distinguished writer, and a courageous prophet of God."

A native of North Carolina, Barnette has taught at Southern Seminary for the past 20 years. He also has taught at Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., and Samford University, Birmingham; and served as pastor of churches in North Carolina and Kentucky.

He is the fourth person to receive the Christian Life Commission's distinguished service award. Previous awards went to former Arkansas Congressman Brooks Hays, Southwestern Seminary Ethics Professor T. B. Maston, and former commission executive secretary A. C. Miller.

In presenting the award, Foy D. Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission, praised Barnette's contributions to the denomination, using the descriptive phrases on the plaque to describe the professor.

In accepting the award, Barnette paid tribute to the role of the Christian Life Commission in the life of the denomination, saying its contribu-

tion to the social awakening of Southern Baptists "is inestimable."

The commission, he said, "has dealt forthrightly with every major issue of our time. No agency of the Southern Baptist Convention has done so much in so little time with so little resources to bring our people face to face with moral issues as has the commission."

Barnette cited two reasons for the commission's contribution to the denomination: (1) wise leadership, and (2) relative freedom from bureaucratic control.

He described the staff of the commission as "men of real insight, integrity and courage" who "are on the moral and social frontiers of our society."

Compared to other agencies of the denomination, the Christian Life Commission has maintained a measure of autonomy partly because, he said, "none of the other agencies have had any hankering to be associated with it and its radical stand on social issues."

He predicted that if the commission were ever merged with another agency, its "prophetic voice could be muffled underneath layers of bureaucratic expediency. Its function would," he continued, "simmer down to merely promoting consensus theology and ethics; that is, what the so-called masses of Southern Baptists believe about the Bible and ethical responsibility."



Professor Honored By Commission: Henlee H. Barnette (right), professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary, Louisville, accepts the distinguished service award of the SBC Christian Life Commission during the commission's annual meeting recently. Making the presentation is Foy D. Valentine (left), executive secretary of the commission.—BP Photo

The church today may be powerless before its opportunities because we are not depending upon God and the evidence of this is our lack of prayer. Prayer is the awareness and power of God. We can recapture the lost vision and zeal only if we learn to pray.

A Model Prayer

Jesus gave them a model prayer which indicates the proper mood or attitude in prayer and the proper content of prayer. Jesus knew God as Father and wanted his disciples to know him the same way. Luke recorded the single word for father that was reserved for one's earthly father. This would teach the disciples to approach God as a person. This one who is God cares and loves us like a father and we are to have confidence and childlike trust. This one is never too busy with the affairs of this vast universe to be concerned about our needs. We are to approach God with reverence, understanding God's will is supreme and his laws are unchangeable and obligatory. The concept in thought that some children have of God, is "the old man" whose ideas on most things are funny and out of date, because the father is

little more than a source of handout. Herschel Hobbs has said that in looking over the model prayer one can see that it is an embryo containing all for which the Christian should pray. It is the call of a child to his Father, a worshipper to his God, a subject to his King, a slave to his Master, a beggar to his Benefactor, a sinner to his Saviour and a follower to his Guide."

Prayer for one's own needs is proper; if properly offered. Man does not live by bread alone, but neither can he live without it. It is proper to pray for what one needs. One needs to pray for a spirit of forgiveness as the ground on which he can receive forgiveness. Temptation and trials were real to Jesus so he taught the disciples to be alert to the threat of them. God is not the actual source of temptation. The prayer is stated negatively and positively for emphasis, "Give us not temptation, but deliverance."

The Encouragement to Pray

The story of a friend calling upon a neighbor at midnight is told to encourage the disciples to pray. It is implied by the story that one does not

need to be taught to pray when he knows his need and knows a friend whom he trusts. What does one do when he finds himself without food for his guest who arrives at midnight? If he has a neighbor whom he loves and he knows the neighbor loves him, he takes his problem to his trusted friend, whatever the inconvenience may be.

If one knows his own need and really believes in God, he will pray. This is the way we learn to pray out of our dependence upon God. If a friend can be coerced to help, "how much more will God help who is a loving Father?" If we do not receive what we pray for, it is not because God grudgingly refuses to give it to us but because He has some better thing for us. There is no such thing as unanswered prayer. The answer given may not be the answer we desire or expect.

Prayer is openness to God. We are to ask, seek, and knock. This is that selfish request will be granted. The meaning is that there will be receiving, finding, and the opening of doors for the one who asks, seeks, and knocks.

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Thursday, December 23, 1971

Christmas Gifts Around The World

NEW YORK (NAPS) — Whether it's Santa Claus, Santa Kurosu, Pere Noel, La Befana or you who provides the gifts on Christmas, you share with the rest of the world a feeling that you have transmitted a present of the spirit of the season. For no matter where you go, gift-giving is one of the most popular customs associated with the holiday season.

Mexicans hang a large ceramic piñata stuffed with presents from the ceiling. Blindfolded children and adults strike at it with long poles. When it finally breaks, spilling its riches to the ground, everyone has a gift.

Ashland Goes Over Lottie Moon Goal By End Of Week

Ashland Church climaxed the "Week of Prayer" on Dec. 5 by going "over the top" in its goal of \$1000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. All lights showing the people were mission-minded were on when the choir with its director, Elzey Autry, the deacons and the pastor, Rev. Billy Burney, took their places for the worship service.

"The thrill of accomplishment and thanksgiving was felt in songs, prayers, and the pastor's missionary message," reports Mrs. R. N. Hudspeth, church librarian.

This is the highest goal the Ashland Church has ever undertaken for special missions (not including the Cooperative Program, to which they give at least \$4000 per year).

Miss Neale Young, SBC Retired Missionary, Dies

FLORENCE, S. C. (BP) — Miss Neale Young, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria, once entitled by a Nigerian king as the "queen of the Christians," died here Dec. 15. She was 80.

Miss Young was president of the Woman's Missionary Union of Nigeria and Ghana for 26 years, and executive secretary of the women's organization for 13 years more. She retired in 1961.

The Nigerian WMU sent a large floral arrangement in the shape of a map of Africa for Miss Young's funeral. Services were held at Ebenezer Baptist Church here, Dec. 17.

When Santa Kurosu (Japanese for Santa Claus, Santa Kurosu) opens his bag on Christmas Eve, a strange smell may fill the air — for some Japanese villagers consider it extremely good luck to give fish as Christmas presents!

In Spain, gifts are exchanged on January 6th in honor of Epiphany, to celebrate the arrival of the Three Wise Men at Bethlehem. Adults in France exchange gifts on New Year's Day, but the impatient young fry are visited by Pere Noel on Christmas Eve just like their American cousins. The German child finds candy and nuts in his stocking, or a potato, depending upon his "report" to Santa.

Italian children put out their shoes to eagerly await presents from a female version of Santa Claus called La Befana who riding a broomstick, brings gifts to good children... and ashes to bad ones.

The poet Dylan Thomas immortalized some of the gifts exchanged in his native land in his "A Child's Christmas in Wales," in which he speaks of receiving "useful" presents like mufflers and gloves and a

crocheted nose bag, and "useless" presents like "fudges and toffees, crunchies, crackles and marzipan."

In Sweden, December 13th ushers in the Christmas season. Each community chooses a lovely Lucia Queen to represent the young girl martyred for her religion centuries before in ancient Rome. The chosen Queen is feted and entertained royally. In families with daughters, through Sweden, the prettiest is traditionally chosen as Lucia. Her "gift" is to wait on everyone else for the day!

The systematic British long ago established December 26th as "Boxing Day" — on this pugilistic sounding occasion, servants and tradespeople all over England are given boxes of money in token appreciation for their services.

"Christmas isn't Christmas without presents" said a concerned Amy in the classic "Little Women" and tradition bears her statement out. Whatever the amount spent, whatever the present, Americans certainly agree with Amy's sentiments.



Alumnus Of The Year

Louis E. Scott of Mobile was honored by his alma mater, William Carey College in Hattiesburg, on Saturday, Dec. 4, as 1971 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. Scott, the director of personnel for Morrison's Inc. of Mobile, is a 1964 graduate in social science and history from the college. While at Carey, Scott distinguished himself by winning the Scholarship Award for having the highest academic average of any graduating senior. Married to the former Tonya senior. He was president of the Carey Ministry Association. Married to the former Tonya Miller; he is the father of two sons — Jeffry and Thad. The family holds membership in the University Church of Mobile. Above right, he receives a bronze plaque from Dr. Ralph Noongester, college president.

Mississippian

In Ghana

W. RALPH DAVIS of Mississippi, chairman of the Ghana Baptist Mission, poses with a Southern Baptist missionary colleague, Miss Nadine Lovan (left), and Mrs. J. C. Ofautey-Kodjoe following dedication services of new quarters for the Baptist Centre in Accra, Ghana. Miss Lovan is director of the center, which opened in 1964 in quarters rented from Mrs. Ofautey-Kodjoe. Davis grew up near Quitman and later lived with his family near Hattiesburg.

Old Carol

May joy come from God above To all those who Christmas love. — Thirteenth Century Carol

Off The Record

A father was telling a neighbor how he stopped his son from being late to high school. "I bought him a car," he said.

"How did that stop him from being late?" the neighbor asked.

"Why, he's got to get there early to find a parking place."

Jim: "Have any of your childhood dreams been realized?"

Joe: "One of them. When my mother combed my hair, I used to wish that I didn't have any."

Seven-year-old George may some day be known for his thoroughness. When asked in a quiz at Sunday school recently, "Who is Gabriel?" George replied: "Gabriel is the angel of the Lord and quarterback of the Rams."

Politics is like an apple pie — a little crust and a lot of applesauce.

An executive knows something about everything. A technician knows everything about something. A switchboard operator knows everything.

Nature has given to man one tongue but two ears, that we may hear from others twice as much as we speak.

Baptist Union Leader Quits In Protest

LONDON (RNS) — The chairman of Britain's Baptist Union Council has resigned to protest the way the Council handled a doctrinal controversy currently rocking the denomination.

Dr. G. R. Beasley-Murray, principal of the famed Spurgeon's College here, had been appointed chairman of the top administrative body for the Union's 270,000 members for a three-year term in 1969.

The controversy began when the Rev. Michael Taylor, principal of Northern Baptist College addressed the Union's Assembly earlier this year. A storm of letters, mostly critical of Mr. Taylor's views, was received by the Union's headquarters.

Critics charged that Mr. Taylor's address denied the deity of Christ. They argued that the Baptist Union should make an explicit reaffirmation of its beliefs and discipline Mr. Taylor by removing him from the clergy roster.



Riverside Dedicates Building

On December 5, Riverside Church, Clarksdale, dedicated new facilities. Located on the north side of Clarksdale the church is now in a area projected to be the area of growth in the city of 25,000.

In 1966 the church began to search for a place to relocate as the area where they was becoming completely commercial. They purchased 4.9 acres on Lee Drive.

In 1969, Rev. Jimmy Walker became their pastor. In August of 1970 the church had a building fund campaign, "Together We Build," in which \$30,000 was pledged over a period of three years. In March of 1971 ground was broken and on November 14, 1971 the building was occupied. The facilities cost over \$100,000 and the debt is now less than \$80,000. The building can accommodate at least 250 in Sunday School and up to 300 in worship service. It also houses Riverside Church School which has four grades this year with an enrollment of 100 pupils.



PICTURED are four of the men who participated in the dedication of the new Riverside Church building. Left to right: Behind pulpit, Rev. Lucius Marion, moderator, Riverside Association and pastor of Clarksdale Church; Rev. Clyde Williams, former pastor of Riverside Church, now pastor at Crawford Church, Mobile, Alabama, speaker; Rev. Jimmy Walker, pastor of Riverside Church; Rev. Ed Burke, missionary, Riverside Association.

Called To Florida

Rev. J. David Carter, pastor of Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto, has resigned to accept First Church, P.O. Box 23326, Oakland Park, Florida 33307.

Oakland Park, city of 13,000, is part of the Greater Ft. Lauderdale area (population of the area is over 700,000). Mr. Carter, native of Brookhaven was ordained by Pearl River Church. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mississippi College and Master of Theology degree from New Orleans Seminary.

His wife is the former Polly Ann Williams of Ruth. The Carters have a son, James Arnold, eight. He has also served Malmaison in Carroll County; Richland in Rankin County as associate pastor; and Big Springs in Lincoln County.



Seminary Graduates

Two students from Mississippi received degrees during winter commencement exercises in Truett Auditorium at Southwestern Seminary, December 17. They were Clarence Lee Bennett Jr., left, Master of Divinity, Florence; and Walter Joseph Gautier, right, Master of Divinity, Moss Point.

Devotional

Pentecostal Power

By Harry Lee Spencer, Jackson

When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost, it was the completion of a meaningful design in the Bible. When Moses finished and dedicated the tabernacle in the wilderness, a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. When Solomon completed and dedicated the temple at Jerusalem, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

The tabernacle in the wilderness served only till the children of Israel reached the Promised Land. The temple served only until Christ died on the cross and the veil was rent in twain from top to bottom. In fact, Jesus had told the disciples that it would be left desolate, and that not one stone would be left upon another. It was Jesus himself who built the church, and He said that the gates of hell would not prevail against it.

There are four figures of the church in the Bible: the golden candlesticks, the temple, the body, and the bride. The Apostle Paul tells us that the church, this living spiritual temple, was built upon the foundation of the prophets and the apostles, that its chief cornerstone was Jesus Christ himself. In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an Holy Temple of the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit (Eph. 2:20-22). On the Day of Pentecost this living spiritual temple was filled with the mighty presence and power of the Lord.

Now let us consider the part the disciples played in this immortal day. They believed with a simple FAITH what Jesus had told them. He had continued with them forty days after His Resurrection and had given them the infallible proofs of His resurrection. They obeyed the command which He had given them to tarry at Jerusalem until they should be endowed with power from on high. The Bible tells us that they were all of one accord. There were no divisions among them, there was perfect UNITY. Finally they PRAYED for ten days. No doubt they would have prayed longer if necessary.

When the Day of Pentecost was fully come, the Holy Spirit came upon them with the sound of a mighty rushing wind that filled the place where they were. There appeared cloven tongues of fire and rested upon the heads of the disciples. The Bible tells us that then the multitudes came. It was a feast time and there were people in Jerusalem from many nations. They asked what all this meant. Peter answered and told them it was the fulfillment of prophecy. The disciples were speaking in tongues so that these people heard in their own languages the wonderful words of God. The Bible tells us that they were pricked in their hearts so much so that three thousand believed and were baptized on that very day.

Let us seek to follow the example of the disciples at Pentecost, in FAITH, in obedience, in unity, and in PRAYER, and we, too, will see the glory of God.

Calvary, Meridian Plans Special Youth Meeting December 26

Calvary Church, Meridian will observe special Student Night at Christmas December 26. Buddy Mathis, pictured, a young preacher from Pascoagoula, will be the featured speaker. Buddy, a high school senior, is widely acclaimed as a youth speaker. He effectively uses the trumpet along with his speaking. Buddy's appearance will climax the evening program led by the youth of the church.

Rev. W. Otis Seal is the pastor and Rev. Arlis V. Nichols is minister of music and youth director.

Correction

The report on receipts from churches in the State Mission offering should have included the Indian Springs Church, Laurel, for the amount of \$212.00. We regret the omission.



Pearl Building New Auditorium

Sunday, December 5, Pearl Church held groundbreaking services for their new auditorium and educational space. D. S. A., Inc. of Cleburne, Texas is in charge of the construction at an estimated cost of \$285,000. Left to right, Rex Lathan, W. L. Maddox, J. J. Thompson, Gene Williams, Elmer Patrick, Rev. Carl Talbert (pastor), Charles Porch, Ford Rushing (building committee chairman), D. H. Robbins, Mrs. C. C. Porch, Mrs. Clara Butner, Mrs. Mary Knott, Mrs. E. T. Tullos, Mark Mullens. Other members of the Building Committee not pictured are, Mrs. Doris Everett, Mrs. Earl Gill, James Broome, Plemon Ming, Pat Grubbs, T. W. Henderson, Richard Sparks, C. E. Hawks, Mrs. Eudora Henderson. The construction will take an estimated eight months to build.



MEMBERS OF THE newly formed Baptist mission in San Andres, Venezuela, wished to say "gracias" to their "brothers in Christ" in the United States for financial assistance with their new building. Southern Baptist missionary Ronell L. Owensby (far right), now furloughing in Kings Mountain, N. C., agreed to letter a banner saying gracias in English. Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds came to the group through a mission in Las Maritas which, though in need, declined the allocation for its own use so this new work could begin. Men of the San Andres mission assisted in the construction to conserve funds. (FMB photo)